

**Script for phone message to state employees on the budget**  
**Taping at 11:15 a.m., from Governor's office phone**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

Hi, this is Haley Barbour. These are tough times for our nation's economy and Mississippi isn't immune to its effects. Here in our state, tax collections fell \$23.8 million, or 2.1 percent, short of expectations in the first quarter of this fiscal year; many economists believe that will be the best quarter we have this year.

As we look to next year's budget, we've got to find a balance between funding priority services for our citizens and protecting our state's fiscal integrity. Budget cuts will likely be necessary.

As required by law, I am putting together the Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation. I have already asked agency directors to prepare 2 percent budget cuts for this fiscal year and 4 percent cuts for next year.

I know as a state employee you probably have some ideas on ways we can save the taxpayers' money, and I'd like to hear them. Please think about this, then send your suggestions to me at this e-mail address: BUDGET at GOVERNOR dot STATE dot MS dot US.

That's ... BUDGET at GOVERNOR dot STATE dot MS dot US.

The best approach is to work through these tight budget times together, and I thank you for your time and suggestions.

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